ARTICLES

Centralized International Anticult Network of Agents Led by Alexander Dvorkin

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Among European and British fighters against sects and cults one can find statements about their independent unbiased activities as well as absence of affiliation with the anticult agent network of the Russian pro-religious organization RACIRS and its leader Alexander Dvorkin. However, this isn't true. When making such statements, they do not advertise their connections, meetings, conference visits, sources of their methods and tactics, data, instructions, etc. Their motives are understandable in light of the dominant political climate of recent years. As we already know, RACIRS anticult agents do not disdain playing double games in achieving certain goals.

By distancing themselves from the controversial leader of RACIRS, Alexander Dvorkin, and his anti-democratic actions, European anticultists shield themselves from questions about their identical rhetoric, methodologies, and terminology. Many instead cite American anticultists and deprogrammers, particularly Steven Hassan, as inspirations.

Let's take a broader look at whether they are honest with society by claiming supposedly more liberal activities and referencing US anticultists (whose practices bluntly contradict democratic principles) while obscuring ties to other anticult

actors linked to the same network of the Russian pro-religious association RACIRS.

US anticultists and deprogrammers Steven Hassan and Rick Ross and their connections to RACIRS leader Alexander Dvorkin and other Russian anticultists

In the research article titled "RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM OF ALEXANDER DVORKIN" [1], we read the following:

"In the beginning of 1970s AFF was a chapter of CAN and now is a separate organization called ICSA (International Cultic Studies Association) and a member of FECRIS, an anti-cult organization, with Dvorkin serving as its vice-president.

Alexander Dvorkin has closer connections with AFF and similar organizations than it might appear at first glance. Enquiring into that, one can find out that in 2001 Alexander Dvorkin participated at an AFF conference in New York, where anti-cult activists who were sympathetic with or active in deprogramming were present (Claire Champollion, Michael

Langone, Friedrich Griess, Daphne Vane, Steven Hassan, and others). Alexander Dvorkin participated in such conferences in 2003, 2005 and 2006. At present some of the aforementioned people, as well as other deprogrammers, participate in the activity of FECRIS."

"He [Steven Hassan] has visited Russia too. He knows Russian false expert Evgeny Volkov, who translated big part of materials of Hassan into Russian."

Steven Hassan's ties to Russian anticultist Evgeny Volkov are also confirmed by their joint participation in the ICSA anticult conference in Italy in 2013 [2].

CONGRESSO INTERNAZIONALE MANIPOLAZIONI ABUSI E VESSAZIONI NEI GRUPPI
ICSA 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE MANIPULATION ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT IN GROUPS
TRIESTE / ITALY JULY 4 / 6 2013
3 LUGLIO
WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH
LABORATORIO IN LINGUA INGLESE PER LA RICERCA ACCADEMICA SUL FENOMENO SETTARIO
3 LUGLIO
WORKSHOP ON EDUCATING YOUTH ABOUT CULTS
LABORATORIO IN LINGUA INGLESE SULL'EDUCARE I GIOVANI SUL FENOMENO SETTARIO
3 LUGLIO
PRE-CONFERENCE ORIENTATION FOR FORMER CULT MEMBER
LABORATORIO DI ORIENTAMENTO PER EX-MEMBRI
ICSA 2013 Annual Conference
Congresso Internazionale
Manipulation, Abuse, and Maltreatment in Groups /
Manipolazioni Abusi e Vessazioni in Gruppi
Trieste, Italy
July 4–6, 2013 / luglio 4-6, 2013
Co-Sponsored by: / in collaborazione tra:
International Cultic Studies Association
SOS Abusi Psicologici
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Associazione Nazionale Pedogogisti Italiani
European Federation of Professionists of Pedagogists
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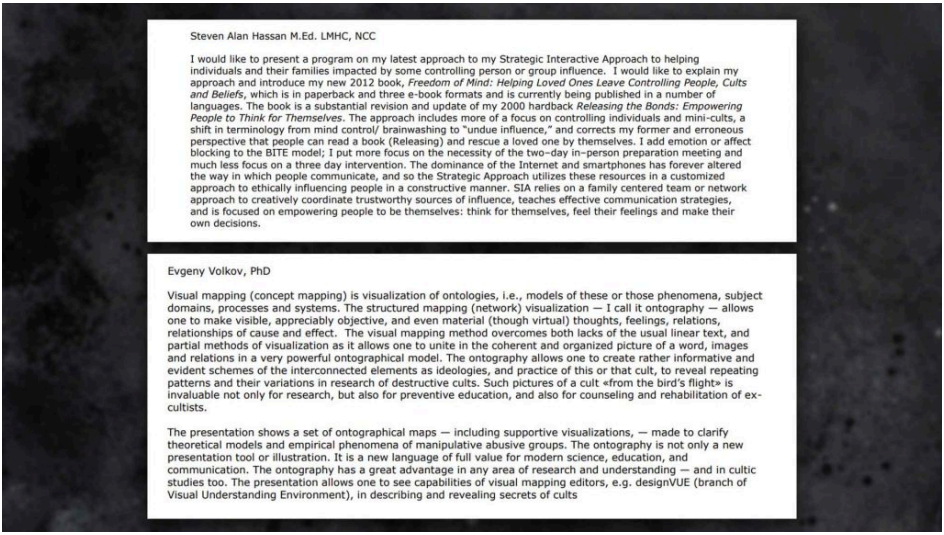
Osservatorio Nazionale Abusi Psicologici

Screenshots from infosect.freeshell.org [2]



Steven Alan Hassan M.Ed. LMHC, NCC

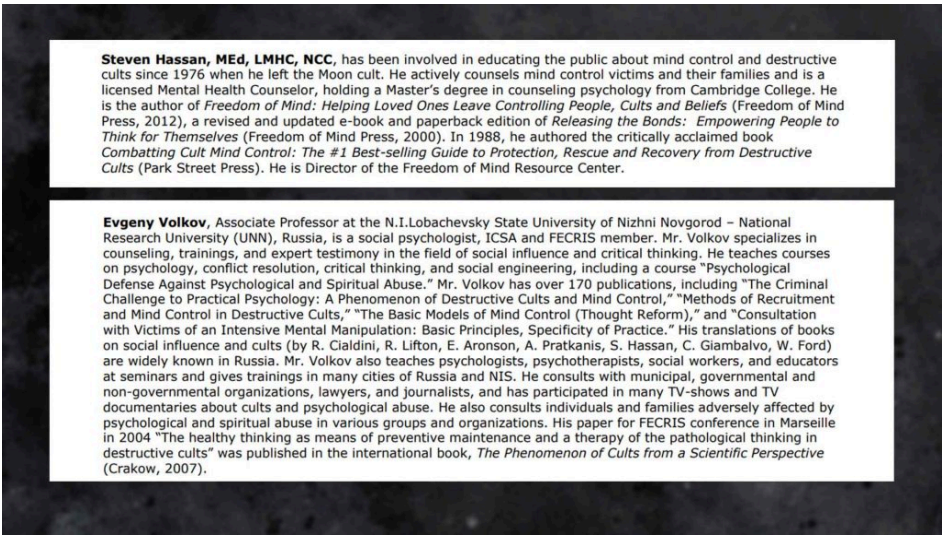
I would like to present a program on my latest approach to my Strategic Interactive Approach to helping individuals and their families impacted by some controlling person or group influence. I would like to explain my approach and introduce my new 2012 book, *Freedom of Mind: Helping Loved Ones Leave Controlling People, Cults and Beliefs*, which is in paperback and three e-book formats and is currently being published in a number of languages. The book is a substantial revision and update of my 2000 hardback *Releasing the Bonds: Empowering People to Think for Themselves*. The approach includes more of a focus on controlling individuals and mini-cults, a shift in terminology from mind control/ brainwashing to "undue influence," and corrects my former and erroneous perspective that people can read a book (Releasing) and rescue a loved one by themselves. I add emotion or affect blocking to the BITE model; I put more focus on the necessity of the two-day in-person preparation meeting and much less focus on a three day intervention. The dominance of the Internet and smartphones has forever altered the way in which people communicate, and so the Strategic Approach utilizes these resources in a customized approach to ethically influencing people in a constructive manner. SIA relies on a family centered team or network approach to creatively coordinate trustworthy sources of influence, teaches effective communication strategies, and is focused on empowering people to be themselves: think for themselves, feel their feelings and make their own decisions.

Evgeny Volkov, PhD

Visual mapping (concept mapping) is visualization of ontologies, i.e., models of these or those phenomena, subject domains, processes and systems. The structured mapping (network) visualization — I call it ontography — allows one to make visible, appreciably objective, and even material (though virtual) thoughts, feelings, relations, relationships of cause and effect. The visual mapping method overcomes both lacks of the usual linear text, and partial methods of visualization as it allows one to unite in the coherent and organized picture of a word, images and relations in a very powerful ontographical model. The ontography allows one to create rather informative and evident schemes of the interconnected elements as ideologies, and practice of this or that cult, to reveal repeating patterns and their variations in research of destructive cults. Such pictures of a cult «from the bird's flight» is invaluable not only for research, but also for preventive education, and also for counseling and rehabilitation of ex-cultists.

The presentation shows a set of ontographical maps — including supportive visualizations, — made to clarify theoretical models and empirical phenomena of manipulative abusive groups. The ontography is not only a new presentation tool or illustration. It is a new language of full value for modern science, education, and communication. The ontography has a great advantage in any area of research and understanding — and in cultic studies too. The presentation allows one to see capabilities of visual mapping editors, e.g. designVUE (branch of Visual Understanding Environment), in describing and revealing secrets of cults

Screenshots from infosect.freeshell.org



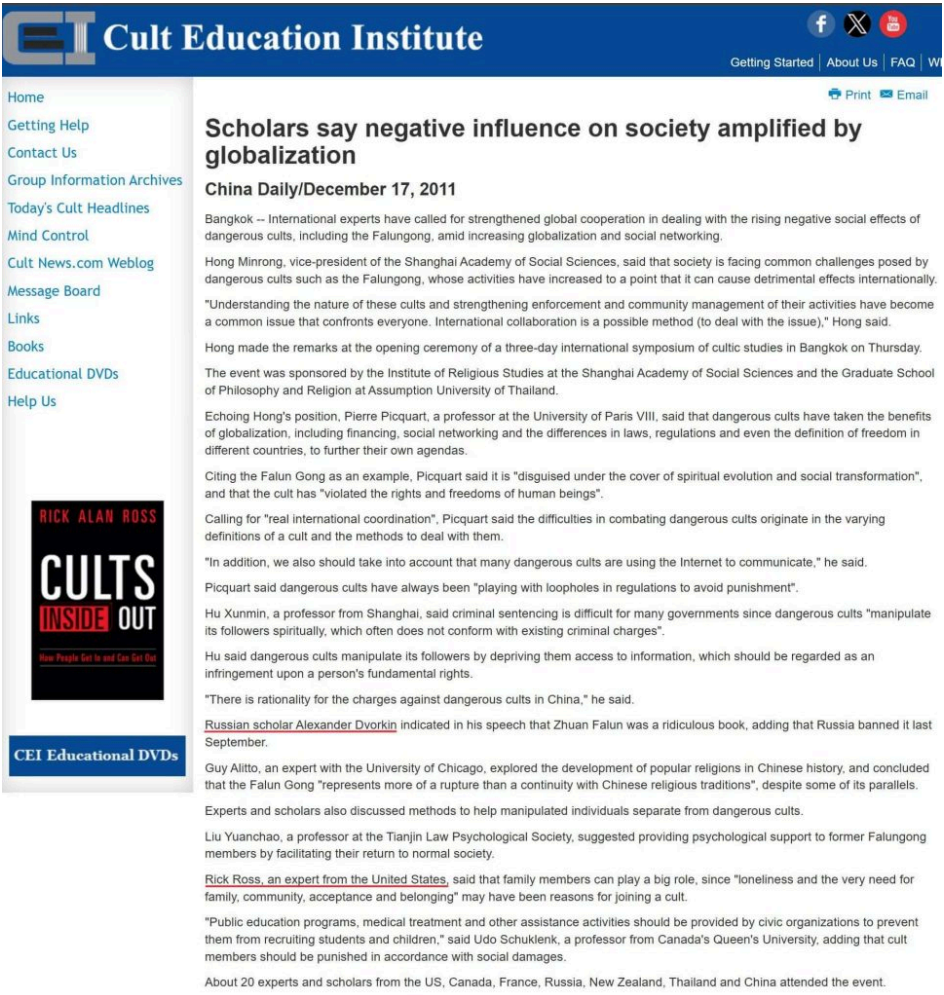
Steven Hassan, MEd, LMHC, NCC, has been involved in educating the public about mind control and destructive cults since 1976 when he left the Moon cult. He actively counsels mind control victims and their families and is a licensed Mental Health Counselor, holding a Master's degree in counseling psychology from Cambridge College. He is the author of *Freedom of Mind: Helping Loved Ones Leave Controlling People, Cults and Beliefs* (Freedom of Mind Press, 2012), a revised and updated e-book and paperback edition of *Releasing the Bonds: Empowering People to Think for Themselves* (Freedom of Mind Press, 2000). In 1988, he authored the critically acclaimed book *Combatting Cult Mind Control: The #1 Best-selling Guide to Protection, Rescue and Recovery from Destructive Cults* (Park Street Press). He is Director of the Freedom of Mind Resource Center.

Evgeny Volkov, Associate Professor at the N.I.Lobachevsky State University of Nizhni Novgorod – National Research University (UNN), Russia, is a social psychologist, ICSA and FECRIS member. Mr. Volkov specializes in counseling, trainings, and expert testimony in the field of social influence and critical thinking. He teaches courses on psychology, conflict resolution, critical thinking, and social engineering, including a course "Psychological Defense Against Psychological and Spiritual Abuse." Mr. Volkov has over 170 publications, including "The Criminal Challenge to Practical Psychology: A Phenomenon of Destructive Cults and Mind Control," "Methods of Recruitment and Mind Control in Destructive Cults," "The Basic Models of Mind Control (Thought Reform)," and "Consultation with Victims of an Intensive Mental Manipulation: Basic Principles, Specificity of Practice." His translations of books on social influence and cults (by R. Cialdini, R. Lifton, E. Aronson, A. Pratkanis, S. Hassan, C. Giambalvo, W. Ford) are widely known in Russia. Mr. Volkov also teaches psychologists, psychotherapists, social workers, and educators at seminars and gives trainings in many cities of Russia and NIS. He consults with municipal, governmental and non-governmental organizations, lawyers, and journalists, and has participated in many TV-shows and TV documentaries about cults and psychological abuse. He also consults individuals and families adversely affected by psychological and spiritual abuse in various groups and organizations. His paper for FECRIS conference in Marseille in 2004 "The healthy thinking as means of preventive maintenance and a therapy of the pathological thinking in destructive cults" was published in the international book, *The Phenomenon of Cults from a Scientific Perspective* (Crakow, 2007).

Screenshots from infosect.freeshell.org

The US-Russia interaction is also noticeable between other anticultists: RACIRS leader Alexander Dvorkin and American

deprogrammer Rick Ross, which is confirmed by information posted on Rick Ross's website [3] regarding their joint participation in an anticult symposium in Thailand. In 2011, a three-day international symposium on cult studies was held in Bangkok. Among speakers at the meeting were Alexander Dvorkin from Russia and Rick Ross from the United States. Discussion topics included the dangers of cults and the negative impact of globalization on society.



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Scholars say negative influence on society amplified by globalization

China Daily/December 17, 2011

Bangkok -- International experts have called for strengthened global cooperation in dealing with the rising negative social effects of dangerous cults, including the Falungong, amid increasing globalization and social networking.

Hong Minrong, vice-president of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, said that society is facing common challenges posed by dangerous cults such as the Falungong, whose activities have increased to a point that it can cause detrimental effects internationally.

"Understanding the nature of these cults and strengthening enforcement and community management of their activities have become a common issue that confronts everyone. International collaboration is a possible method (to deal with the issue)," Hong said.

Hong made the remarks at the opening ceremony of a three-day international symposium of cultic studies in Bangkok on Thursday.

The event was sponsored by the Institute of Religious Studies at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Graduate School of Philosophy and Religion at Assumption University of Thailand.

Echoing Hong's position, Pierre Picquart, a professor at the University of Paris VIII, said that dangerous cults have taken the benefits of globalization, including financing, social networking and the differences in laws, regulations and even the definition of freedom in different countries, to further their own agendas.

Citing the Falun Gong as an example, Picquart said it is "disguised under the cover of spiritual evolution and social transformation", and that the cult has "violated the rights and freedoms of human beings".

Calling for "real international coordination", Picquart said the difficulties in combating dangerous cults originate in the varying definitions of a cult and the methods to deal with them.

"In addition, we also should take into account that many dangerous cults are using the Internet to communicate," he said.

Picquart said dangerous cults have always been "playing with loopholes in regulations to avoid punishment".

Hu Xunmin, a professor from Shanghai, said criminal sentencing is difficult for many governments since dangerous cults "manipulate its followers spiritually, which often does not conform with existing criminal charges".

Hu said dangerous cults manipulate its followers by depriving them access to information, which should be regarded as an infringement upon a person's fundamental rights.

"There is rationality for the charges against dangerous cults in China," he said.

Russian scholar Alexander Dvorkin indicated in his speech that Zhuan Falun was a ridiculous book, adding that Russia banned it last September.

Guy Alitto, an expert with the University of Chicago, explored the development of popular religions in Chinese history, and concluded that the Falun Gong "represents more of a rupture than a continuity with Chinese religious traditions", despite some of its parallels.

Experts and scholars also discussed methods to help manipulated individuals separate from dangerous cults.

Liu Yuanchao, a professor at the Tianjin Law Psychological Society, suggested providing psychological support to former Falungong members by facilitating their return to normal society.

Rick Ross, an expert from the United States, said that family members can play a big role, since "loneliness and the very need for family, community, acceptance and belonging" may have been reasons for joining a cult.

"Public education programs, medical treatment and other assistance activities should be provided by civic organizations to prevent them from recruiting students and children," said Udo Schuklenk, a professor from Canada's Queen's University, adding that cult members should be punished in accordance with social damages.

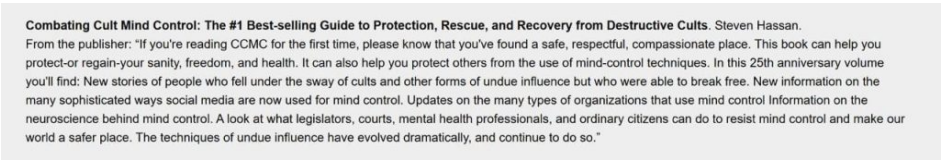
About 20 experts and scholars from the US, Canada, France, Russia, New Zealand, Thailand and China attended the event.

Screenshot from Cult Education Institute website [3]

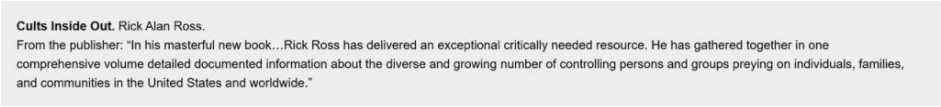
ICSA as a communication and interaction platform for anticult agents from various countries. CAN's legacy and ties with representatives of post-communist states

The above evidence mentions the International Cult Study Association (ICSA), until 2004 known as the American Family Foundation (AFF) which in the early 1970s was a branch of CAN. Steven Hassan has made significant contributions to ICSA. In the past, just like Rick Ross, he was a member of CAN and was directly involved in its criminal activities, including kidnapping and forced deprogramming. Interestingly, European and British anticultists hush up this fact while making references to Hassan.

If you visit the official ICSA website today [4], you'll find some general info there. However, if you go to the saved archives of the website [5], you will find more interesting and specific information. Among a huge list of anticultists from various countries you can find information about Steven Hassan, Rick Ross, Josie Zelov, and others.


Combating Cult Mind Control: The #1 Best-selling Guide to Protection, Rescue, and Recovery from Destructive Cults. Steven Hassan.
From the publisher: "If you're reading CCMC for the first time, please know that you've found a safe, respectful, compassionate place. This book can help you protect-or regain-your sanity, freedom, and health. It can also help you protect others from the use of mind-control techniques. In this 25th anniversary volume you'll find: New stories of people who fell under the sway of cults and other forms of undue influence but who were able to break free. New information on the many sophisticated ways social media are now used for mind control. Updates on the many types of organizations that use mind control Information on the neuroscience behind mind control. A look at what legislators, courts, mental health professionals, and ordinary citizens can do to resist mind control and make our world a safer place. The techniques of undue influence have evolved dramatically, and continue to do so."

Screenshot from the web archive ICSA


Cults Inside Out. Rick Alan Ross.
From the publisher: "In his masterful new book…Rick Ross has delivered an exceptional critically needed resource. He has gathered together in one comprehensive volume detailed documented information about the diverse and growing number of controlling persons and groups preying on individuals, families, and communities in the United States and worldwide."

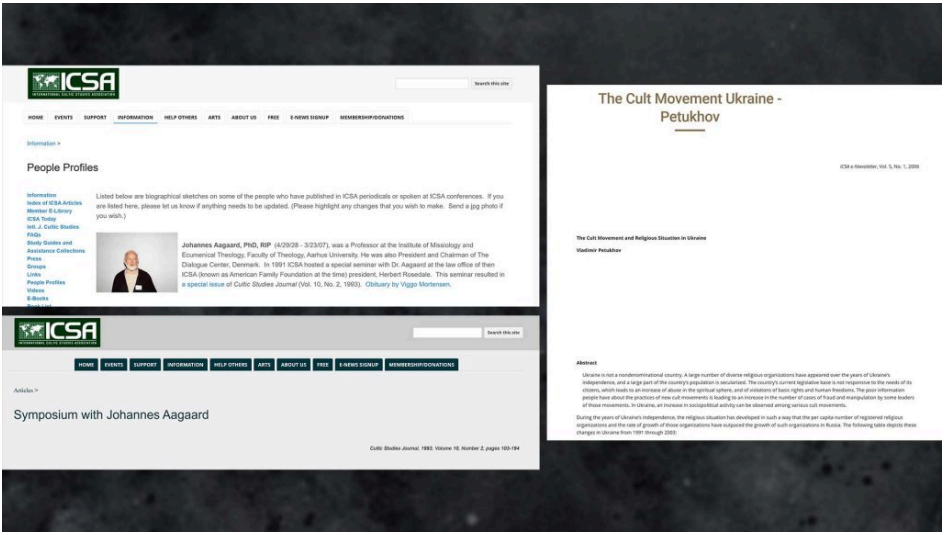
Screenshot from the web archive ICSA

Josie Zelov, along with her husband Randy, were part of the Personal Freedom Association in the early 1970s. This organization was affiliated with the Citizens Freedom Foundation, which changed its name in 1984 to the Cult Awareness Network (CAN), and Josie Zelov was on the CAN's board of directors. She is also associated with ICSA, and she supported this organization.

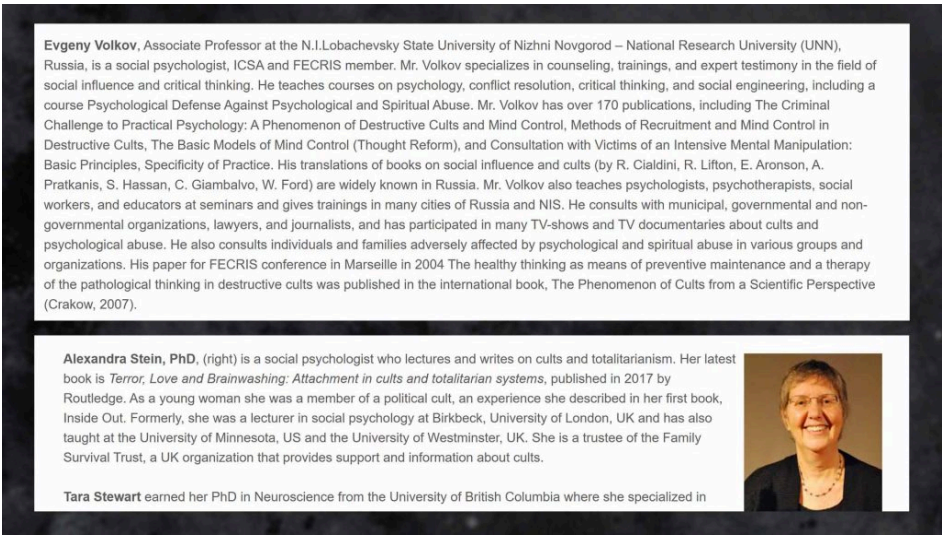
RIP. Josie Zelov, along with her husband Randy (deceased, 2008), as concerned parents became involved with the Personal Freedom Association (PFA), Philadelphia in the early 1970s. PFA was a local organization associated with the national group, the Citizens Freedom Foundation, which changed its name in 1984 to Cult Awareness Network (CAN). Josie was elected to CAN's national board of directors in 1987 and served until the early 1990s. During this time she served as secretary, treasurer, and chair of the development and publications committees, which developed the CAN logo and CAN's original information brochure. Also during these years she formed the Cult Abuse Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. In addition, Josie was involved in information, consulting, and referral for families and friends of cult members as well as several interventions and rehab. She presented educational programs to churches, schools, colleges, and the Junior League, as well as family workshops for CAN national conferences. She received the CAN Achievement Award for her service. Though inactive since the 1990s, Josie has remained connected to and supportive of ICSA.

Screenshot from ICSA web archive

In the web archive of the ICSA website, you can find many anticultists from various countries who took an active part in this international organization's operation. Among them are Johannes Aagaard (Denmark, founder of DCI), Evgeny Volkov (Russia), Alexandra Stein (UK), Vladimir Petukhov (Ukraine), as well as Janja Lalich (USA), Margaret Singer (USA), Friedrich Griess (Austria, Head of FECRIS until 2009, who received the ICSA Award in 2013), and many others, including a number of Chinese activists involved in anticult activities. Due to the huge list of involved individuals, we will only cite a few examples. The rest are available in the web archive of the said website [5].



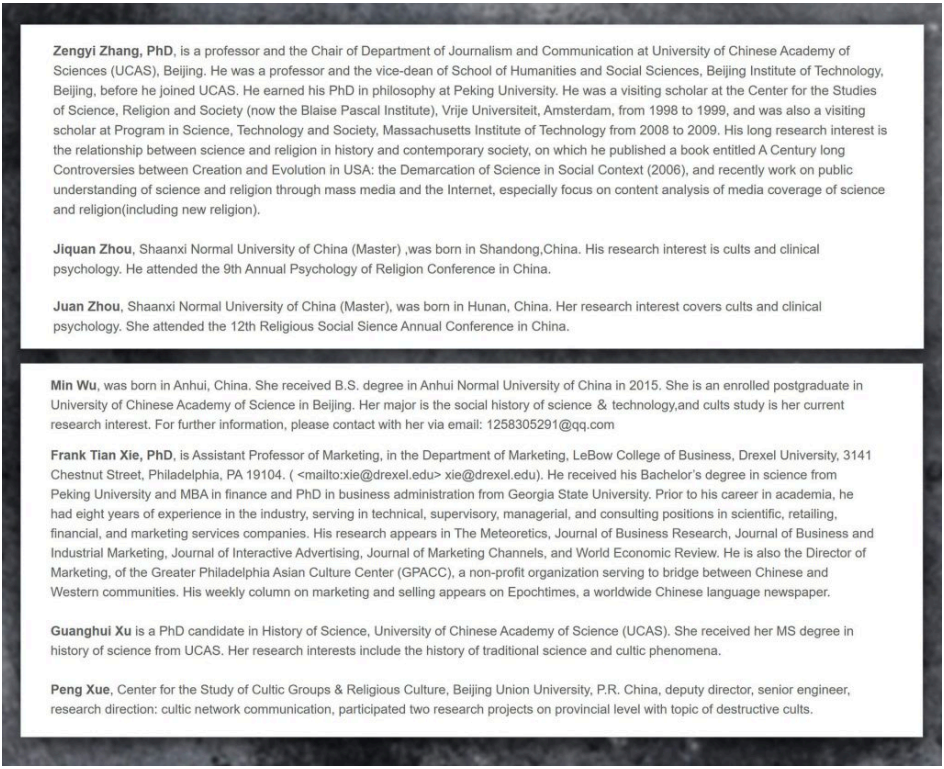
Screenshot from ICSA web archive


Evgeny Volkov, Associate Professor at the N.I.Lobachevsky State University of Nizhni Novgorod – National Research University (UNN), Russia, is a social psychologist, ICSA and FECRIS member. Mr. Volkov specializes in counseling, trainings, and expert testimony in the field of social influence and critical thinking. He teaches courses on psychology, conflict resolution, critical thinking, and social engineering, including a course Psychological Defense Against Psychological and Spiritual Abuse. Mr. Volkov has over 170 publications, including The Criminal Challenge to Practical Psychology: A Phenomenon of Destructive Cults and Mind Control, Methods of Recruitment and Mind Control in Destructive Cults, The Basic Models of Mind Control (Thought Reform), and Consultation with Victims of an Intensive Mental Manipulation: Basic Principles, Specificity of Practice. His translations of books on social influence and cults (by R. Cialdini, R. Lifton, E. Aronson, A. Pratkanis, S. Hassan, C. Giambalvo, W. Ford) are widely known in Russia. Mr. Volkov also teaches psychologists, psychotherapists, social workers, and educators at seminars and gives trainings in many cities of Russia and NIS. He consults with municipal, governmental and non-governmental organizations, lawyers, and journalists, and has participated in many TV-shows and TV documentaries about cults and psychological abuse. He also consults individuals and families adversely affected by psychological and spiritual abuse in various groups and organizations. His paper for FECRIS conference in Marseille in 2004 The healthy thinking as means of preventive maintenance and a therapy of the pathological thinking in destructive cults was published in the international book, The Phenomenon of Cults from a Scientific Perspective (Crakow, 2007).
Alexandra Stein, PhD, (right) is a social psychologist who lectures and writes on cults and totalitarianism. Her latest book is Terror, Love and Brainwashing: Attachment in cults and totalitarian systems, published in 2017 by Routledge. As a young woman she was a member of a political cult, an experience she described in her first book, Inside Out. Formerly, she was a lecturer in social psychology at Birkbeck, University of London, UK and has also taught at the University of Minnesota, US and the University of Westminster, UK. She is a trustee of the Family Survival Trust, a UK organization that provides support and information about cults.
Tara Stewart earned her PhD in Neuroscience from the University of British Columbia where she specialized in

Screenshot from ICSA web archive

Besides, here are a few references to Chinese activists involved in ICSA's anticult work: Zengyi Zhang, PhD; Jiquan Zhou; Juan

Zhou; Bairong Wang; Dr. Weiguo Wang; Yichen Wang; Min Wu; Frank Tian Xie, PhD; Guanghui Xu; Peng Xue; Qingping Chen, PhD; Tianjia Chen, PhD; Dr. Jianhui Li; Dr. Yaming Li; Yao Liu.



Zengyi Zhang, PhD, is a professor and the Chair of Department of Journalism and Communication at University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS), Beijing. He was a professor and the vice-dean of School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Beijing Institute of Technology, Beijing, before he joined UCAS. He earned his PhD in philosophy at Peking University. He was a visiting scholar at the Center for the Studies of Science, Religion and Society (now the Blaise Pascal Institute), Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, from 1998 to 1999, and was also a visiting scholar at Program in Science, Technology and Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 2008 to 2009. His long research interest is the relationship between science and religion in history and contemporary society, on which he published a book entitled A Century long Controversies between Creation and Evolution in USA: the Demarcation of Science in Social Context (2006), and recently work on public understanding of science and religion through mass media and the Internet, especially focus on content analysis of media coverage of science and religion(including new religion).

Jiquan Zhou, Shaanxi Normal University of China (Master) ,was born in Shandong,China. His research interest is cults and clinical psychology. He attended the 9th Annual Psychology of Religion Conference in China.

Juan Zhou, Shaanxi Normal University of China (Master), was born in Hunan, China. Her research interest covers cults and clinical psychology. She attended the 12th Religious Social Sience Annual Conference in China.

Min Wu, was born in Anhui, China. She received B.S. degree in Anhui Normal University of China in 2015. She is an enrolled postgraduate in University of Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing. Her major is the social history of science & technology,and cults study is her current research interest. For further information, please contact with her via email: 1258305291@qq.com

Frank Tian Xie, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Marketing, in the Department of Marketing, LeBow College of Business, Drexel University, 3141 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. (<mailto:xie@drexel.edu> xie@drexel.edu). He received his Bachelor's degree in science from Peking University and MBA in finance and PhD in business administration from Georgia State University. Prior to his career in academia, he had eight years of experience in the industry, serving in technical, supervisory, managerial, and consulting positions in scientific, retailing, financial, and marketing services companies. His research appears in The Meteoretics, Journal of Business Research, Journal of Business and Industrial Marketing, Journal of Interactive Advertising, Journal of Marketing Channels, and World Economic Review. He is also the Director of Marketing, of the Greater Philadelphia Asian Culture Center (GPACC), a non-profit organization serving to bridge between Chinese and Western communities. His weekly column on marketing and selling appears on Epochtimes, a worldwide Chinese language newspaper.

Guanghui Xu is a PhD candidate in History of Science, University of Chinese Academy of Science (UCAS). She received her MS degree in history of science from UCAS. Her research interests include the history of traditional science and cultic phenomena.

Peng Xue, Center for the Study of Cultic Groups & Religious Culture, Beijing Union University, P.R. China, deputy director, senior engineer, research direction: cultic network communication, participated two research projects on provincial level with topic of destructive cults.

Screenshot from ICSA web archive

Bairong Wang is a vice-professor at the Center for the Study of Cultic Groups & Religious Culture, a teacher at Beijing Union University of China. He graduated from Renmin university as a PhD, field in jurisprudence and religious culture. He has published a book on religion and law and written several papers on law.

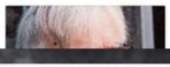
Dr. Weiguo Wang is a professor of Political Civilization Study Center at Beijing Union University. He is interested in philosophy and cults in contemporary China. Professor Wang has published more than 20 articles.

Yichen Wang, Shaanxi Normal University of China (Master), was born in Shandong, China. Her research interest is cults and clinical psychology. She attended the 12th Religious Social Science Annual Conference in China.

Dr. Jianhui Li is a professor in School of Philosophy and Sociology, Beijing Normal University and a director of China Association of Philosophy of Biology. He has expertised in philosophy and sociology of science. He is the author or co-author of more than ten books, such as What is Science, Science and Superstition, Pilosophy of Science, Philosophy of Life Science, Being the Friend of Truth: Philosophical Thinking on Contemporary Science, Digital Genesis. Recent years, he had begun to focus on science and pseudo-science, science and religion, philosophy of science and science education, and how science is used and criticized by new arising cults. Email: ljh@bnu.edu.cn

Dr. Yaming Li is an associate professor in department of medical humanities, Capital Medical University, China. Her research interests include history of medicine, philosophy of science, and the relation of science and religion. She published several papers and books in these area. ljh98@sina.com

Yao Liu, a graduate student in Shaanxi Normal University, major in applied psychology.



Qingping Chen, PhD, is a professor at the Institute of Psychology at Shaanxi Normal University in xi'an, China.Her research interest is clinical psychology. She has studied the cult problem for a long time, focusing on cult members' return and social-psychological rehabilitation. Dr.Chen has won a number of academic awards for her research.

Tianjia Chen, PhD, Assistant Professor, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, is now councilor of Beijing Society for History and Sociology of Science. He received his PhD degree in History of Science from Peking University. His academic interests include cultural history of science and religion in China, pseudoscience and cult phenomenon, STS. For further information, please contact with him via email: ctj@pku.edu.cn

Screenshot from ICSA web archive

It is noteworthy that ICSA is a member of FECRIS, the European umbrella federation which includes dozens of anticult organizations from various countries. Alexander Dvorkin (president of the Russian association RACIRS) became FECRIS vice-president in 2009, and the election of FECRIS'

new leadership was held in St. Petersburg, Russia. FECRIS membership involved and still involves many RACIRS members, including hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church. Dvorkin's vice-presidency in FECRIS lasted until 2021, after which the RACIRS president remained on the FECRIS board of directors along with other European anticultists.

ICSA and its ties to post-communist governments. Source of repressive methods against Falun Gong

ICSA has been accused of having ties to post-communist governments. As you remember, its membership included anticultists associated with the Russian pro-religious organization RACIRS (whose president is A. Dvorkin) and the European FECRIS (where A. Dvorkin is on the board of directors). Among ICSA members we would like to mention a Russian citizen Evgeny Volkov, a translator of Steven Hassan's books into Russian, who, along with Dvorkin, often delivered speeches at conferences organized by both RACIRS and FECRIS. Together with another ICSA member, Ukrainian citizen Vladimir Petukhov, Evgeny Volkov served as a leader of the Ukrainian anticult movement for a long time, particularly in the organization "Family and Personality Protection Society." Both Volkov and Petukhov were corresponding members of FECRIS and spoke at its conferences.

It's important to note that all regional branches of Ukrainian anticult centers, along with the All-Ukrainian Dialogue Center for Victims of Destructive Cults which united them, were part of the East European Dialogue Center almost from their inception and throughout their entire existence. They were fully subordinated to Alexander Dvorkin. Read more about this cooperation and its dire consequences for the Ukrainian people in our earlier article, "Europe, Open Your Eyes if You Don't Want War."

Overall, these connections are quite revealing in the context of information that will follow, in terms of suppression of religious freedom and numerous anti-democratic processes.

As for other examples of ties to post-communist governments, ICSA's influence has crossed not only moral boundaries in suppressing religious freedom, but also territorial and national ones. This organization has contributed to brutal persecution of representatives of other nations, particularly the followers of Falun Gong movement in China where many innocent people have suffered torture and organ harvesting. For members of the multimillion organization Falun Gong, these horrors began more than 25 years ago and continue to this day.

Influence of the American ICSA on suppression of religious freedom in China is evidenced by specific facts. In the Journal of Church and State*, in an article titled “Imposed Limitations on Freedom of Religion in China and the Margin of Appreciation Doctrine: A Legal Analysis of the Crackdown on the Falun Gong and other ‘Evil Cults’,” Bryan Edelman and James T. Richardson argued that China has borrowed these ideas mainly from Western anticult movements such as ICSA, which has reinforced views of non-traditional religious groups in China, known as “xie jiao,” and provided support for oppressing them and carrying out repression against them.

* Edelman, Bryan; Richardson, James T. [2005]. “Imposed Limitations on Freedom of Religion in China and the Margin of Appreciation Doctrine: A Legal Analysis of the Crackdown on the Falun Gong and other ‘Evil Cults’.” Journal of Church and State. 47 [2]: 243

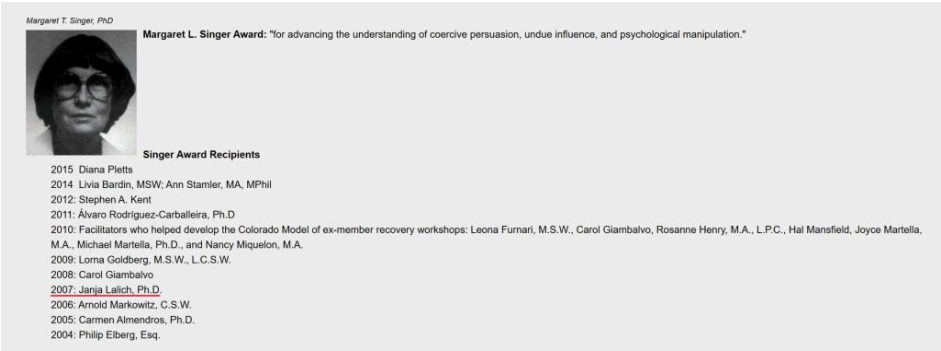
Additional information about connections between ICSA and China representatives regarding the repression of “xie jiao” (“evil cults”) was found on the website of the American Christian community Homestead Heritage from Waco, Texas. It is worth mentioning that more than a decade ago, an anticult defamation and smear campaign was launched against this peaceful community in mass media. The campaign involved distortion of facts, fabrication and manipulation of

information, orchestrated by anticultists with the assistance of former members of the community who had become apostates. In response, the official website of Homestead Heritage published extensive rebuttals. One of those rebuttals is particularly significant as it presents arguments and facts [6] supported by reputable sources in what concerned activities of the anticult organization ICSA and its member Janja Lalich. This material also draws on the research of Bryan Edelman and James Richardson:

"According to Bryan Edelman of the Jury Research Institute and James Richardson, director of the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies at the University of Nevada, the People's Republic of China in their crackdown on religion and human rights draws on 'many ideas' from the American Family Foundation [AFF(ICSA)] and similar groups 'to create a sense of legitimacy around its campaign' against what it calls 'evil cults,' which include most prominently the Christian house church movement. In 2000 and 2001, official representatives from China attended American Family Foundation (now known as the International Cultic Studies Association, ICSA) conferences to hear more about how to control religious movements. Lalich is on the Executive Advisory Board of the ICSA and serves on the editorial board of its journal. She herself co-authored a book with Michael D. Langone who was the president of the

old American Family Foundation and is the executive director of the new incarnation of the group as the ICSA."

The ICSA website's archive also contains information about Janja Lalich and her receipt of the Margaret Singer Award in 2007. (Margaret Singer was on the ICSA's board of directors and advisory board of CAN.)

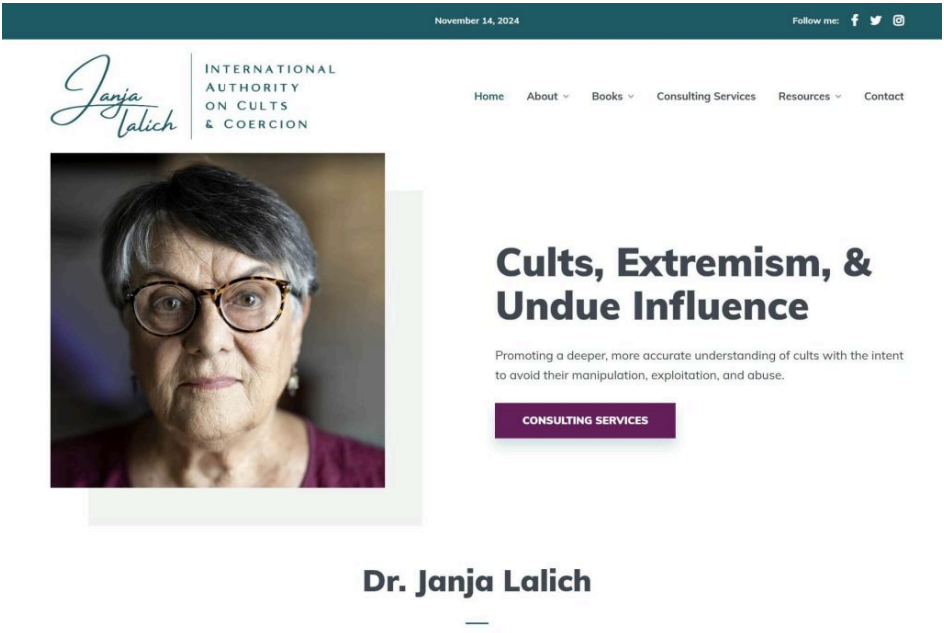

Margaret T. Singer, PhD

Margaret L. Singer Award: "for advancing the understanding of coercive persuasion, undue influence, and psychological manipulation."

Singer Award Recipients

2015 Diana Pletts
2014 Livia Bardin, MSW; Ann Stamler, MA, MPhil
2012: Stephen A. Kent
2011: Álvaro Rodríguez-Carballeira, Ph.D
2010: Facilitators who helped develop the Colorado Model of ex-member recovery workshops: Leona Furnari, M.S.W., Carol Giambalvo, Rosanne Henry, M.A., L.P.C., Hal Mansfield, Joyce Martella, M.A., Michael Martella, Ph.D., and Nancy Miquelon, M.A.
2009: Lorna Goldberg, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
2008: Carol Giambalvo
2007: Janja Lalich, Ph.D.
2006: Arnold Markowitz, C.S.W.
2005: Carmen Almendros, Ph.D.
2004: Philip Elberg, Esq.

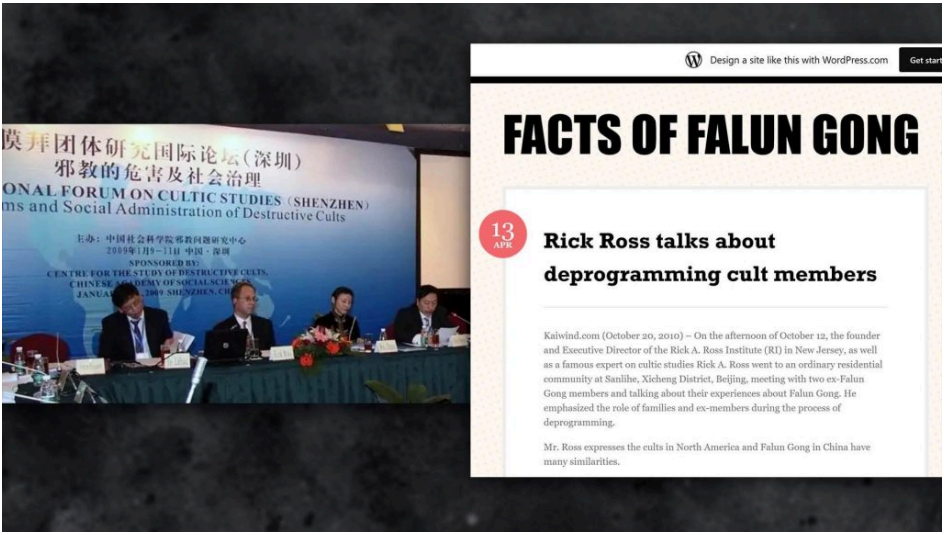
Screenshot from ICSA web archive



Screenshot from Janja Lalich's website

Rick Ross and his contribution to persecuting Falun Gong

In 2009, American anticultist Rick Ross who, like Stephen Hassan, was a speaker at ICSA conferences, attended an anticult forum in China, lending support to the persecution of Falun Dafa. In 2010, Ross, a seasoned deprogrammer, visited former Falun Gong members who had been "deprogrammed" in Beijing [7].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FACTS OF FALUN GONG
13
APR
Rick Ross talks about deprogramming cult members
Kaiwind.com (October 20, 2010) – On the afternoon of October 12, the founder and Executive Director of the Rick A. Ross Institute (RI) in New Jersey, as well as a famous expert on cultic studies Rick A. Ross went to an ordinary residential community at Sanlihe, Xicheng District, Beijing, meeting with two ex-Falun Gong members and talking about their experiences about Falun Gong. He emphasized the role of families and ex-members during the process of deprogramming.
Mr. Ross expresses the cults in North America and Falun Gong in China have many similarities.
邪教的危害及社会治理
ONAL FORUM ON CULTIC STUDIES (SHENZHEN)
ms and Social Administration of Destructive Cults
SPONSORED BY:
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF DESTRUCTIVE CULTS,

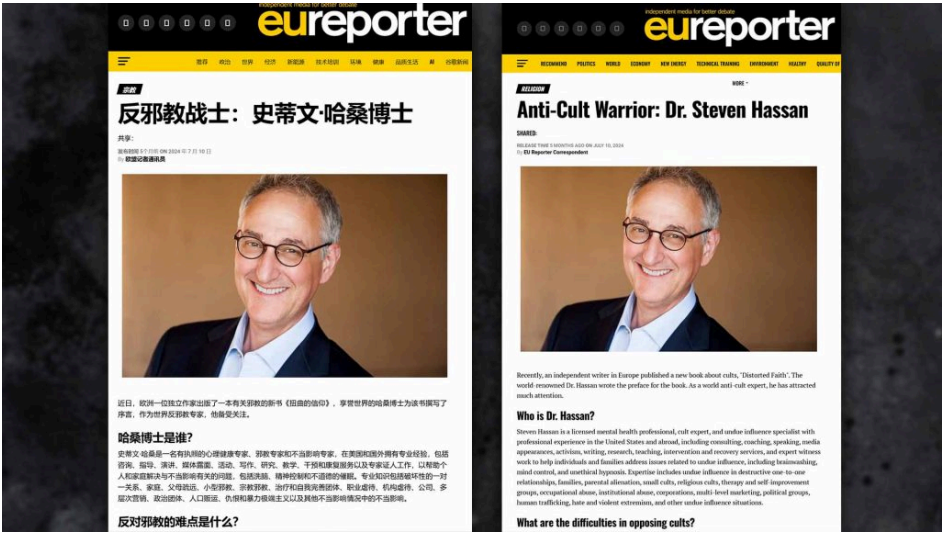
Rick Ross speaks at an anticult forum in China in 2009. Source: Weibo. Screenshot from factsoffalun.wordpress.com [7]

It is noteworthy that the deprogramming process itself involves long-term confinement of individuals against their will, depriving them of sleep and food, and subjecting them to threats, torture, manipulation, and often to physical and sexual violence. Forced deprogramming is a lengthy process: it can take from a few days to weeks or months, and there are cases of years of confinement.

Despite its cruelty and violation of human rights, forced deprogramming has been practiced for decades, including in democratic countries. However, it was only in totalitarian regimes that this process reached such extremes, requiring concentration camps and entire closed territories. Many Falun Gong practitioners who were released after deprogramming

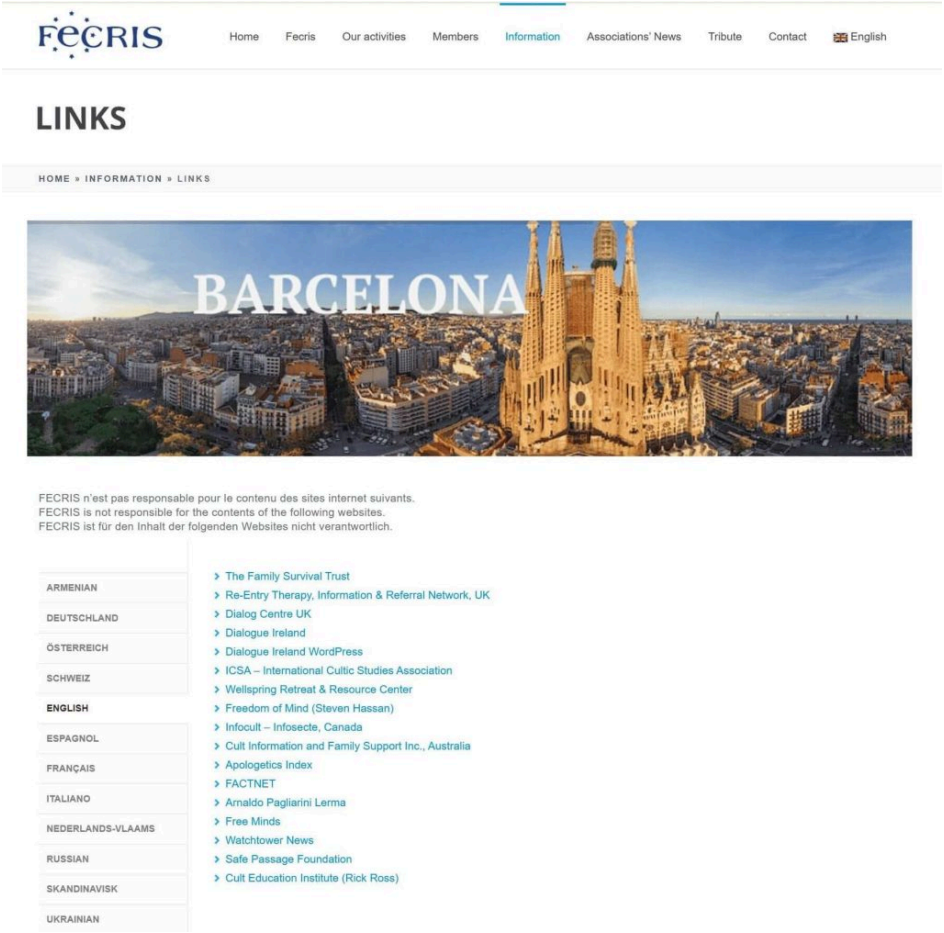
lived only a few weeks or months following such an experience. American, European, and Russian anticultists who contributed to the persecution of Falun Gong were likely aware of the horrors experienced by those people, especially when they visited them personally.

Aside from personal interactions of anticultists from the United States, Russia, and Europe with Chinese anticult agents, their opinions have been cited by various media outlets that promote anticult rhetoric. For instance, a 2024 Chinese article titled “Anti-Cult Warrior: Dr. Steven Hassan” [8] exemplifies this.



Screenshots from Eureporter news portal [8]

Although Rick Ross isn't officially a member of FECRIS, this does not prevent him, his website, or Stephen Hassan's website from being listed on the official FECRIS website [9]. This raises a question: why would FECRIS reference and include the websites of those with whom they do not share a common ideology?



Screenshot from FECRIS' official website

FECRIS branch and a visit of its members to China

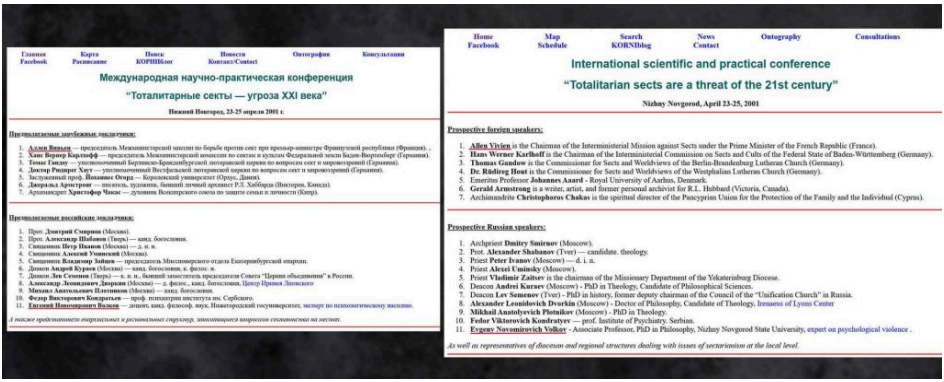
In addition to ICSA's influence, another FECRIS affiliate, the French organization CCMM, played a significant role in the Chinese repression of "xie jiao" and Falun Gong in particular. Members of this organization traveled to China in 2000, at the early stage of the Falun Gong persecution. Let us elaborate on this fact.

CCMM* representatives visited Beijing in 2000. Members of this organization represented not only CCMM and the French anticult movement, but also FECRIS in general. During that visit to China, they participated in the International Symposium on Destructive Cults, after which CCMM issued a bulletin. The CCMM delegation included Jean-Pierre Bousquet who was also responsible for representing the president of FECRIS, Patricia Casano and Hayat El Mountacir. As an outcome of the meeting, the Chinese government initiated plans to establish a similar non-governmental association with goals akin to those of CCMM. Patricia Casano's husband Alain Vivien, who at that time headed another French anticult organization MILS* (a branch of FECRIS), also accompanied his wife and delegation in China. Alain Vivien, a former president of CCMM, had been closely working with Alexander Dvorkin in

the early 2000s. In 2001, he even visited Russia for the conference “Totalitarian Sects: a Threat of the 21st Century.” [10]

* Mission interministérielle de lutte contre les sectes; English: Interministerial Mission in the Fight Against Cults. In 2002, MIVILUDES became MILS’ successor.

* CCMM — Centre contre les manipulations mentales, aka Centre Roger Ikor.



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Международная научно-практическая конференция

“Тоталитарные секты — угроза XXI века”

Нижний Новгород, 23-25 апреля 2001 г.

Предполагаемые зарубежные докладчики:

1. **Аллэн Вивьен** — председатель Межминистерской миссии по борьбе против сект при премьер-министре Французской республики (Франция).
2. **Ханс Вернер Карлхоф** — председатель Межминистерской комиссии по сектам и культам Федеральной земли Баден-Вюртемберг (Германия).
3. **Томас Гандоу** — уполномоченный Берлинско-Бранденбургской лютеранской церкви по вопросам сект и мировоззрений (Германия).
4. **Доктор Рюдигер Хоут** — уполномоченный Вестфальской лютеранской церкви по вопросам сект и мировоззрений (Германия).
5. Заслуженный проф. **Йоханнес Оаард** — Королевский университет (Орхус, Дания).
6. **Джеральд Армстронг** — писатель, художник, бывший личный архивист Р.Л. Хаббарда (Виктория, Канада).
7. Архимандрит **Христофор Чакас** — духовник Всекипрского союза по защите семьи и личности (Кипр).

Предполагаемые российские докладчики:

1. Прот. **Дмитрий Смирнов** (Москва).
2. Прот. **Александр Шабанов** (Тверь) — канд. богословия.
3. Священник **Петр Иванов** (Москва) — д. п. н.
4. Священник **Алексей Уминский** (Москва).
5. Священник **Владимир Зайцев** — председатель Миссионерского отдела Екатеринбургской епархии.
6. Диакон **Андрей Кураев** (Москва) — канд. богословия, к. филос. н.
7. Диакон **Лев Семенов** (Тверь) — к. п. н., бывший заместитель председателя Совета “Церкви объединения” в России.
8. **Александр Леонидович Дворкин** (Москва) — д. филос., канд. богословия, Центр Иринея Лионского
9. **Михаил Анатольевич Плотников** (Москва) — канд. богословия.
10. **Федор Викторович Кондратьев** — проф. психиатрии института им. Сербского.
11. **Евгений Новомирович Волков** — доцент, канд. философ. наук, Нижегородский госуниверситет, эксперт по психологическому насилию.

А также представители епархиальных и региональных структур, занимающихся вопросами сектантства на местах.

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International scientific and practical conference

“Totalitarian sects are a threat of the 21st century”

Nizhny Novgorod, April 23-25, 2001

Prospective foreign speakers:

1. **Allen Vivien** is the Chairman of the Interministerial Mission against Sects under the Prime Minister of the French Republic (France).
2. **Hans Werner Karlhoff** is the Chairman of the Interministerial Commission on Sects and Cults of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg (Germany).
3. **Thomas Gandow** is the Commissioner for Sects and Worldviews of the Berlin-Brandenburg Lutheran Church (Germany).
4. **Dr. Rüdiing Hout** is the Commissioner for Sects and Worldviews of the Westphalian Lutheran Church (Germany).
5. Emeritus Professor **Johannes Aaard** - Royal University of Aarhus, Denmark.
6. **Gerald Armstrong** is a writer, artist, and former personal archivist for R.L. Hubbard (Victoria, Canada).
7. Archimandrite **Christophorus Chakas** is the spiritual director of the Pancyprian Union for the Protection of the Family and the Individual (Cyprus).

Prospective Russian speakers:

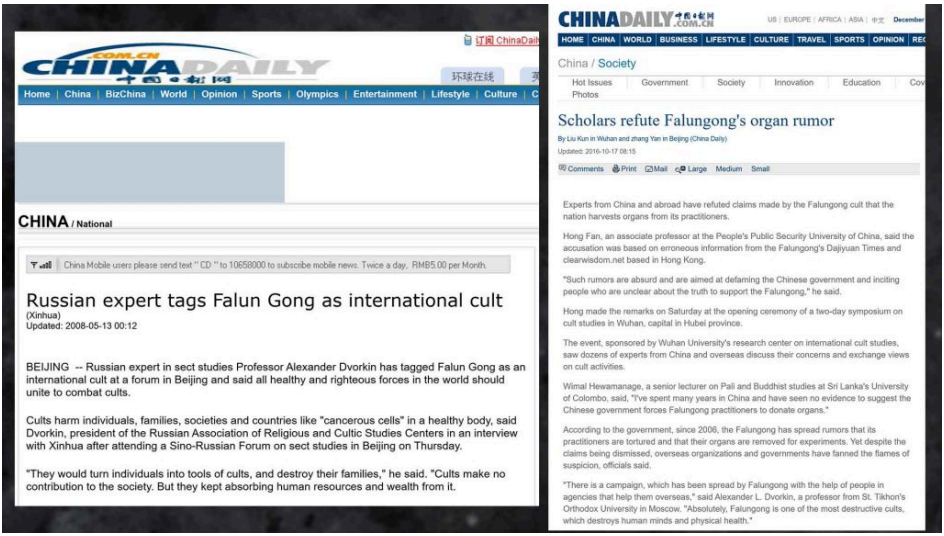
1. Archpriest **Dmitry Smirnov** (Moscow).
2. Prot. **Alexander Shabanov** (Tver) — candidate. theology.
3. Priest **Peter Ivanov** (Moscow) — d. i. n.
4. Priest **Alexei Uminsky** (Moscow).
5. Priest **Vladimir Zaitsev** is the chairman of the Missionary Department of the Yekaterinburg Diocese.
6. Deacon **Andrei Kuraev** (Moscow) - PhD in Theology, Candidate of Philosophical Sciences.
7. Deacon **Lev Semenov** (Tver) - PhD in history, former deputy chairman of the Council of the “Unification Church” in Russia.
8. **Alexander Leonidovich Dvorkin** (Moscow) - Doctor of Philosophy, Candidate of Theology, Irenaeus of Lyons Center
9. **Mikhail Anatolyevich Plotnikov** (Moscow) - PhD in Theology.
10. **Fedor Viktorovich Kondratyev** — prof. Institute of Psychiatry. Serbian.
11. **Evgeny Novomirovich Volkov** - Associate Professor, PhD in Philosophy, Nizhny Novgorod State University, expert on psychological violence .

As well as representatives of diocesan and regional structures dealing with issues of sectarianism at the local level.

Screenshots from evolkov.net, a website of E. Volkov (Dvorkin’s follower)

RACIRS President Alexander Dvorkin himself has repeatedly visited China (at least in 2008, 2016, and 2017) and has made numerous negative statements about Falun Gong.

Alexander Dvorkin in China. Photo on iriney.ru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CHINA / National
China Mobile users please send text " CD " to 10658000 to subscribe mobile news. Twice a day. RMB5.00 per Month.
Russian expert tags Falun Gong as international cult
(Xinhua)
Updated: 2008-05-13 00:12
BEIJING -- Russian expert in sect studies Professor Alexander Dvorkin has tagged Falun Gong as an international cult at a forum in Beijing and said all healthy and righteous forces in the world should unite to combat cults.
Cults harm individuals, families, societies and countries like "cancerous cells" in a healthy body, said Dvorkin, president of the Russian Association of Religious and Cultic Studies Centers in an interview with Xinhua after attending a Sino-Russian Forum on sect studies in Beijing on Thursday.
"They would turn individuals into tools of cults, and destroy their families," he said. "Cults make no contribution to the society. But they kept absorbing human resources and wealth from it.
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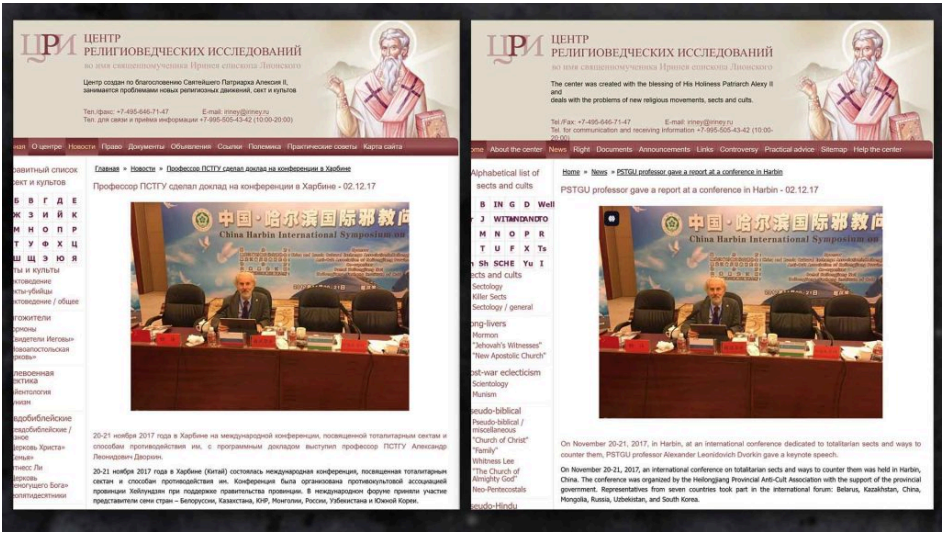
Scholars refute Falungong's organ rumor
By Liu Kun in Wuhan and zhang Yan in Beijing (China Daily)
Updated: 2016-10-17 08:15
Comments | Print | Mail | Large | Medium | Small
Experts from China and abroad have refuted claims made by the Falungong cult that the nation harvests organs from its practitioners.
Hong Fan, an associate professor at the People's Public Security University of China, said the accusation was based on erroneous information from the Falungong's Dajiyuan Times and clearwisdom.net based in Hong Kong.
"Such rumors are absurd and are aimed at defaming the Chinese government and inciting people who are unclear about the truth to support the Falungong," he said.
Hong made the remarks on Saturday at the opening ceremony of a two-day symposium on cult studies in Wuhan, capital in Hubei province.
The event, sponsored by Wuhan University's research center on international cult studies, saw dozens of experts from China and overseas discuss their concerns and exchange views on cult activities.
Wimal Hewamanage, a senior lecturer on Pali and Buddhist studies at Sri Lanka's University of Colombo, said, "I've spent many years in China and have seen no evidence to suggest the Chinese government forces Falungong practitioners to donate organs."
According to the government, since 2006, the Falungong has spread rumors that its practitioners are tortured and that their organs are removed for experiments. Yet despite the claims being dismissed, overseas organizations and governments have fanned the flames of suspicion, officials said.
"There is a campaign, which has been spread by Falungong with the help of people in agencies that help them overseas," said Alexander L. Dvorkin, a professor from St. Tikhon's Orthodox University in Moscow. "Absolutely, Falungong is one of the most destructive cults, which destroys human minds and physical health."

Screenshots from China Daily news portal [11, 12]


ЦЕНТР
РЕЛИГИОВЕДЧЕСКИХ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ
Центр создан по благословению Святейшего Патриарха Алексия II, занимается проблемами новых религиозных движений, сект и культов
Профессор ПСТГУ сделал доклад на конференции в Харбине - 02.12.17
China Harbin International Symposium on
ЦЕНТР
РЕЛИГИОВЕДЧЕСКИХ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ
The center was created with the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II and deals with the problems of new religious movements, sects and cults.
PSTGU professor gave a report at a conference in Harbin - 02.12.17
China Harbin International Symposium on

Alexander Dvorkin in China. Photo on iriney.ru [13]

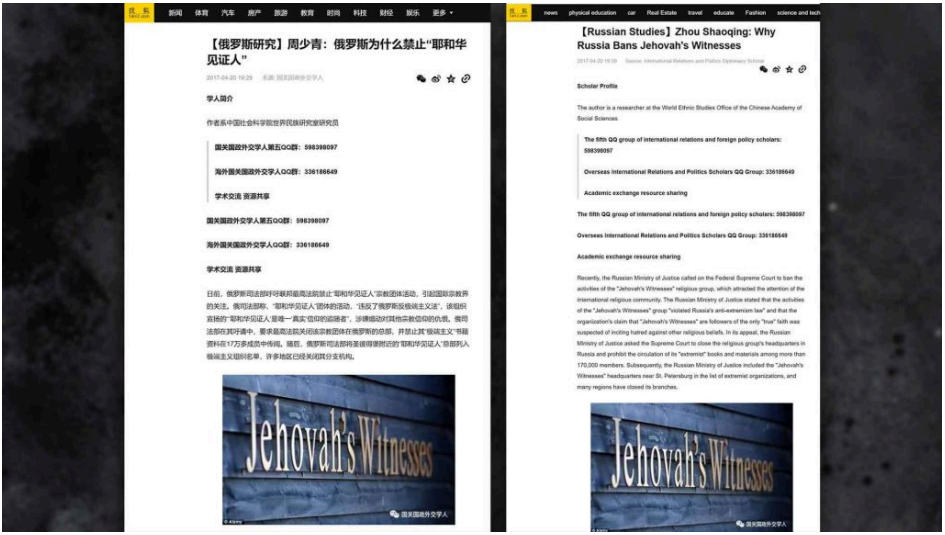
Dvorkin's influence on the anticult movement outside Russia, particularly in Europe, the UK, China, Ukraine, and the USA, is undeniable. This is evidenced by a number of facts that will be examined below.

Synchronized media campaigns in different countries, featuring Alexander Dvorkin's narratives

Identical narratives, common methods, mutual meetings, and continuous exchange of experiences — all of this undeniably confirms the unified organized activity of the anticult network. Yet, how can one see where its main ideological center is, which sets the vector of persecution against certain groups for

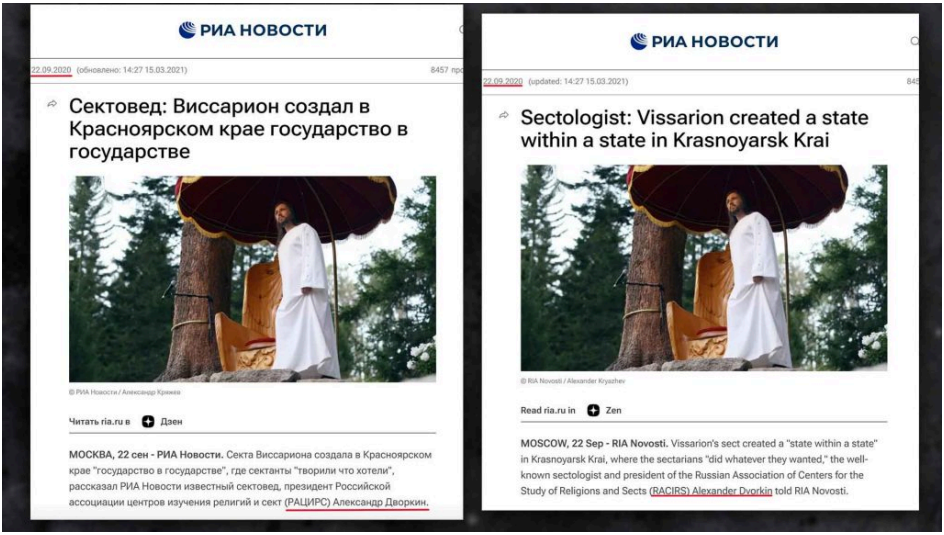
the rest of anticult centers across the globe? Monitoring synchronized publications in the media in various countries reveals where the first instances of harassment and dehumanization appear, which are then picked up elsewhere. Here, we will quote only a few examples.

The website of the Chinese “anti-xie jiao” association has been found to repeatedly broadcast reports about the activities of the Russian anticultist Alexander Dvorkin, RACIRS leader. The same website arranged a media campaign in China that supported repressions against “totalitarian cults” in Russia. In 2017, the Russian Ministry of Justice (whose Expert Council on State Religious Evaluation was headed by RACIRS president Dvorkin) filed a lawsuit to ban Jehovah’s Witnesses, and Chinese media promptly published several articles in support of this ban in Russia [14]. That happened despite the fact that Jehovah’s Witnesses aren’t officially on the list of “xie jiao” (“evil cults”) in China.


【俄罗斯研究】周少青：俄罗斯为什么禁止"耶和华见证人"
学人简介
作者系中国社会科学院世界民族研究室研究员
国关国政外交学人第五QQ群：598398097
海外国关国政外交学人QQ群：336186649
学术交流 资源共享
Jehovah's Witnesses
【Russian Studies】Zhou Shaoqing: Why Russia Bans Jehovah's Witnesses
Scholar Profile
The author is a researcher at the World Ethnic Studies Office of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
The fifth QQ group of international relations and foreign policy scholars: 598398097
Overseas International Relations and Politics Scholars QQ Group: 336186649
Academic exchange resource sharing
Jehovah's Witnesses

Screenshots from sohu.com website

Similar processes can be traced not only in China. In 2020, Alexander Dvorkin launched a massive discrediting campaign in the Russian media against the Vissarion community. By an amazing coincidence, in perfect synchrony with RACIRS leader, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) immediately started publishing a series of demonizing articles about this community with similar statements and the label "sect." Some articles in Russia and the UK were even released on the same day. The presence of RACIRS anticult agents among BBC experts directly linked to Alexander Dvorkin was discussed in detail in our earlier article.


РИА НОВОСТИ
22.09.2020 (обновлено: 14:27 15.03.2021)
Сектовед: Виссарион создал в Красноярском крае государство в государстве
© РИА Новости / Александр Кряжев
Читать ria.ru в Дзен
МОСКВА, 22 сен - РИА Новости. Секта Виссариона создала в Красноярском крае "государство в государстве", где сектанты "творили что хотели", рассказал РИА Новости известный сектовед, президент Российской ассоциации центров изучения религий и сект (РАЦИРС) Александр Дворкин.
РИА НОВОСТИ
22.09.2020 (updated: 14:27 15.03.2021)
Sectologist: Vissarion created a state within a state in Krasnoyarsk Krai
© RIA Novosti / Alexander Kryazhev
Read ria.ru in Zen
MOSCOW, 22 Sep - RIA Novosti. Vissarion's sect created a "state within a state" in Krasnoyarsk Krai, where the sectarians "did whatever they wanted," the well-known sectologist and president of the Russian Association of Centers for the Study of Religions and Sects (RACIRS) Alexander Dvorkin told RIA Novosti.

Screenshots from RIA Novosti website [15]

BBC
Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Arts Travel Earth Video Live
Sergei Torop: Russian religious sect leader arrested over allegations of harm
22 September 2020
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Alamy
Sergei Torop, known to his followers as Vissarion, was arrested on Tuesday
The leader of a prominent religious sect has been arrested in a remote part of Siberia by the Russian security forces, police say.

Screenshot from BBC news portal [16]

Almost simultaneously with the Russian and British media, the Czech news portal Dingir also published news about that [17]:

NÁBOŽENSKÝ INFOSERVIS
Vissarion, vůdce ruského hnutí Posledního zákona, zatčen
NÁBOŽENSKÝ INFOSERVIS
Vissarion, leader of the Russian Last Law movement, arrested

Screenshots from Dingir portal

Unlike other European countries where anticultists openly interact with Alexander Dvorkin and other members of RACIRS, the Czech anticult movement positions itself as being more independent and unbiased. However, there are a number of facts that point to the opposite. We will expand on this later in the article, but first, let's look at one more notorious persona.

Evgeny Volkov

Evgeny Volkov, the main translator of Steven Hassan's books into Russian, is one of the few Russian anticultists close to Alexander Dvorkin who covered with their presence and connections almost all key points of anticult influence in the

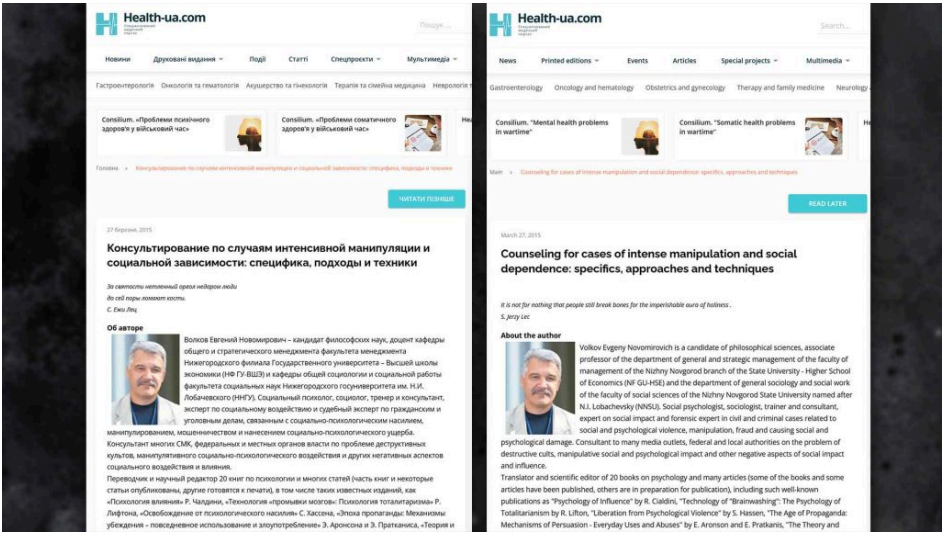
world: ICSA in the United States, FECRIS in Europe and the UK, Ukraine's Family and Personality Protection Society [FPPS], as well as anticult activities in Russia. It is interesting that with such a large-scale international operation, along with Evgeny Volkov's claims to be a professional psychologist and his status of a co-founder of the International Institute for Social and Psychological Health [IISPH], his rhetoric has been pro-religious and ecclesiastical, similar to that of priests of the Russian Orthodox Church who are members of the Russian pro-religious association RACIRS.

What was Evgeny Volkov's actual role in Ukraine, and what was his role in the US anticult organization? This question remains unanswered. However, some of his statements, when compared to subsequent events in Ukraine and the rhetoric of Alexander Dvorkin, raise serious concerns. Here's a quote by Volkov, published in a Ukrainian medical journal in 2015 [18]:

"I dare assume that humankind will use the experience of denazification many times over, given the ever-increasing urgency of the problem of protecting the humanistic values and principles won by civilization from the pressure of various kinds of misanthropic, extremist and terrorist ideologies."

Evgeny Volkov

Coincidentally or not, the official reason for the start of the war in Ukraine, as declared by Russian propagandists including the leader of the anticult movement Alexander Dvorkin, has been exactly the same: “denazification” [19].


Health-ua.com
Консультирование по случаям интенсивной манипуляции и социальной зависимости: специфика, подходы и техники
Об авторе
Health-ua.com
Counseling for cases of intense manipulation and social dependence: specifics, approaches and techniques
About the author

Screenshots from Health-ua website [18]

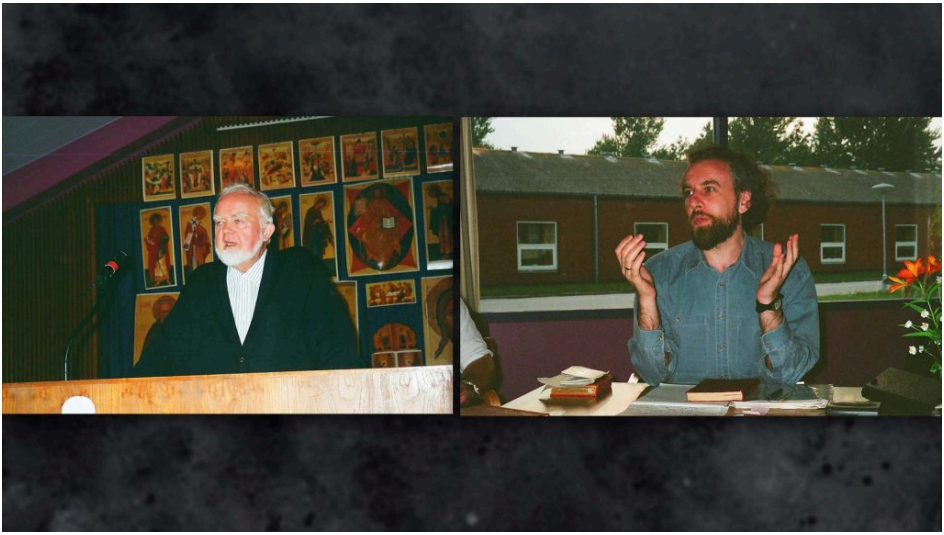
Let us reiterate the earlier question: who is Evgeny Volkov? Is he a mouthpiece for the US citizen Steven Hassan in the post-Soviet space as his primary translator into Russian? Or was Mr. Volkov, on the contrary, the “gray cardinal” to Alexander Dvorkin in the democratic countries of Europe and the United States? The question remains open. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that besides being a member of ICSA and FECRIS, one of the official reasons Evgeny Volkov visited the USA and the UK was for internships. In 2000, he interned at the

University of California, Santa Cruz, and the New England Institute for Religious Research in Massachusetts. Another internship took place in 2002 at the University of Warwick in the UK, focusing on social psychology of influence and psychological violence. Beyond that, Yevgeny Volkov was a participant and speaker at Russian-German workshops and conferences both in Russia and abroad. Those included events in Nizhny Novgorod, Cologne and Düsseldorf between 1996 and 1999, where issues of psychological violence and media pedagogy were addressed, as well as the 2004 international conference "The Impact of Cults on Health in Society" in Marseille, France.

DCI and Johannes Aagaard's legacy

Apart from ICSA and FECRIS, another key element of the anticult movement is the Dialog Center International (DCI). Its founder, Johannes Aagaard, listed on ICSA website, directly collaborated with American anticultists. The Danish Dialog Center significantly influenced the global expansion of anticultism. Its vice president was none other than Alexander Dvorkin. It was in Aarhus, Denmark, that modern leading anticult activists who now lead the movement in various countries actually learned their methods and acquired materials needed for subsequent persecution of dissenting organizations.

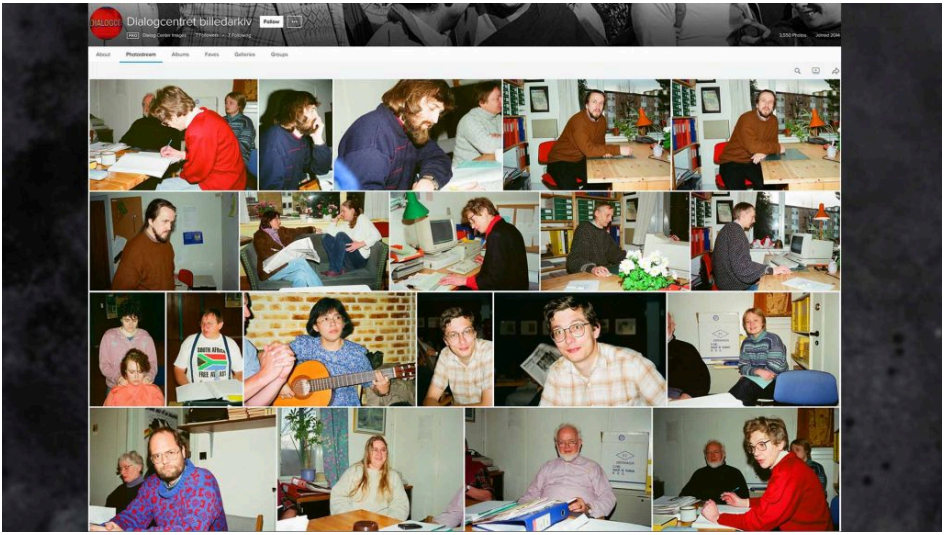
Below are photos of some anticultists and fighters against sects, still early in their careers, who trained under Johannes Aagaard, as well as a photo of Aagaard himself. The full stock of photographs is available on the Dialog Center's archive website [20].



Photos from the Dialog Center archive on flickr.com [20]

Photos from the Dialog Center archive on flickr.com [20]

Photos from the Dialog Center archive on flickr.com [20]. Screenshot from the Dialog Center archive on flickr.com



Photos from the Dialog Center archive on flickr.com [20]

Photos from the Dialog Center archive on flickr.com [20]

Czech anticult movement and its connection to Alexander Dvorkin

An example of a seemingly independent anticult organization that at first glance seems unrelated to RACIRS or its president Alexander Dvorkin is the Czech anticult movement. The

founders of Czech anticultism are the creators of the Society for the Study of Sects and New Religious Movements, including Zdeněk Vojtíšek and Tomáš Novotný.

One of the key international anticultists they cite as an authority is Steven Hassan. Moreover, in 2017 Hassan visited Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, and gave a lecture at Charles University where the heart of Czech anticultism is based and where Zdeněk Vojtíšek teaches. Following that event, an interview with Hassan was published in Dingir magazine, founded and edited by Zdeněk Vojtíšek. This fact was covered in more detail in our earlier article about the Czech anticult movement.

It should be noted that there is nothing dishonest about mentioning Steven Hassan, especially since he has long been a friend of anticultists close to Alexander Dvorkin. For instance, his longtime friend is Alexandra Stein. It is dishonest however to omit other crucial facts. The founders of the Czech anticult movement, Zdeněk Vojtíšek and Tomáš Novotný, are students of the same mentor who trained RACIRS president Alexander Dvorkin. Both Zdeněk Vojtíšek and Tomáš Novotný studied at Johannes Aagaard's center in 1993 at the same time as Alexander Dvorkin, where they all adopted Nazi anticult methods and tactics.

Here's an excerpt from the Dingir magazine founded and edited by Zdeněk Vojtíšek. In this article, Vojtíšek shared his experience of visiting the information center in Aarhus, Denmark [21]:

"Opening the two modest rooms of the main university building in Aarhus, Denmark, was always a significant moment for me. The walls were lined with shelves filled with an incredible number of documents (books were stored two floors below). The list of religious groups covered in those materials alone took up several pages. In the corner stood a single yet essential device — a photocopier. It was used by all the students who had access there.

I found myself in what was called the 'guru library', an information center for studying what theologian and religious scholar Prof. Johannes Aagaard called guruism."

Zdeněk Vojtíšek, Dingir, page 2

Autorita ano, kritičnost ale též

GURUISMUS

ZDENĚK VOJTÍŠEK

Otevřít dvě nepříliš velké místnosti hlavní budovy univerzity v dánském Aarhusu bylo pro mne vždy velkým zážitkem. Na všech stěnách police a na nich složky s neuvěřitelným množstvím dokumentů (knihy byly uloženy o dvě patra níže). Pouze seznam náboženských skupin, jichž se tato spousta materiálů týkala, zabral několik stran. V rohu stál jediný a velmi důležitý přístroj - kopírka. Sloužila všem studentům, kteří směli vstoupit.

Ocital jsem se v tzv. gurutéce, informačním centru pro studium toho, co teolog a religionista prof. Johannes Aagaard nazýval guruismem. Tento pojem se vžil pro označení silné a nezpochybnitelné autority, s níž se setkáme především u duchovních vůdců, kteří z Východu přicházejí k nám na Západ, ale i u dalších duchovních autorit, neomezeně a totalitně vládnoucích nad skupinou svých oddaných následovníků.

Screenshot from Dingir magazine [21]

During the same period of time, Alexander Dvorkin came from Russia to visit Johannes Aagaard upon his invitation. Here's an excerpt from an article on Dvorkin's website, including his quote [22]:

"Professor Johannes Aagaard, head of the Dialog Center International headquartered in Aarhus, Denmark, greatly

helped Alexander Dvorkin at that stage… In spring 1993, Aagaard visited Moscow and, after meeting Alexander Dvorkin, invited him to Denmark.

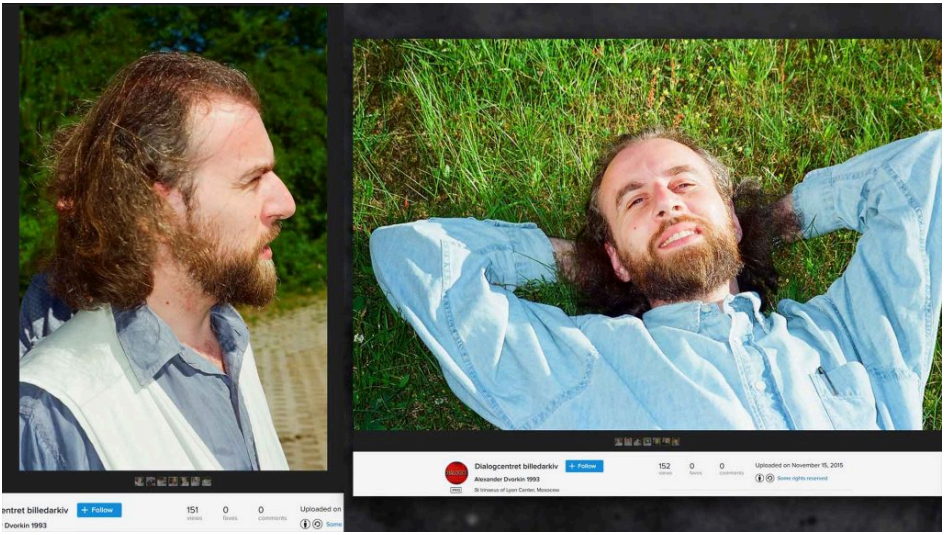
'After seeing how they manage their work in Denmark, I immediately realized that a similar center had to be established in Russia,' recalls Alexander Dvorkin."

Another interesting fact is noteworthy. **1993** was the year the Czech Society for the Study of Sects and New Religious Movements was founded. Upon its registration on July 16, 1993, its leaders were chairman Tomáš Novotný, deputy chairman Prokop Remeš, and press secretary Zdeněk Vojtíšek. **1993** was also the year Alexander Dvorkin established his Center for Religious Studies in the Name of Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons in Russia after visiting the information center in Aarhus at Johannes Aagaard's invitation.

Another coincidence, isn't it? Below are photos from the Dialog Center archive, featuring Tomáš Novotný and Zdeněk Vojtíšek visiting Johannes Aagaard in Aarhus, Denmark, in 1993:

Photo 1: Tomáš Novotný and Zdeněk Vojtíšek, 1993. Screenshots from the Dialog Center archive on flickr.com. Photo 2: Johannes Aagaard, 1993

And here are photos of Alexander Dvorkin from the Dialog Center archive:



Alexander Dvorkin, 1993. Screenshots from the Dialog Center archive on flickr.com

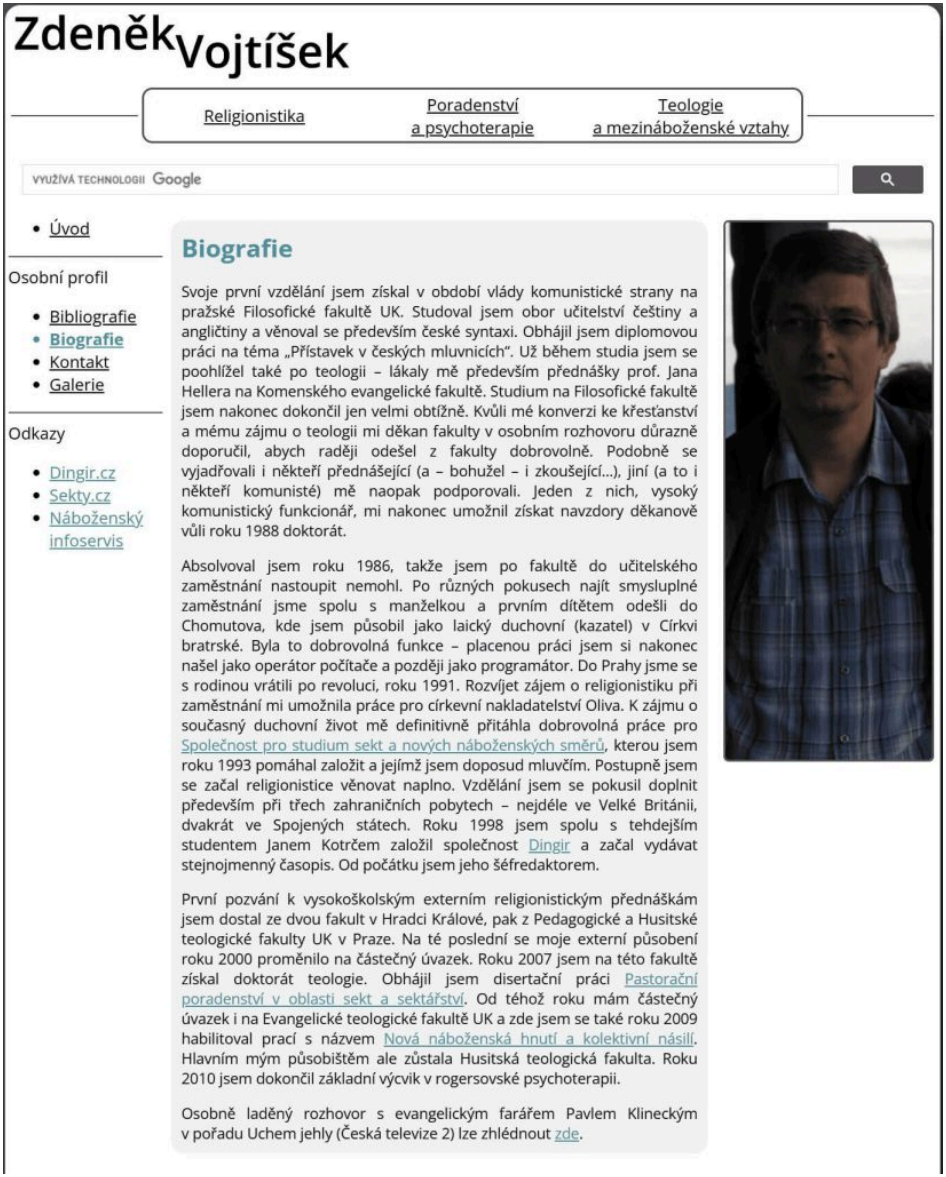
Zdeněk Vojtíšek himself indirectly mentioned the global anticult network in one of Dingir issues [23] where he expressed admiration for Johannes Aagaard and his global network of students and colleagues:

"...the third type of research approach for me is the Danish scholar Johannes Aagaard. I must admit that I admire him, his students, and colleagues worldwide for their ability to make quick critical judgments based on their knowledge of how the studied religious groups operate."

Zdeněk Vojtíšek's biography reveals parallels not only with Alexander Dvorkin, but also with Evgeny Volkov and his visits to the United States and the United Kingdom in the early 2000s [24]:

"My interest in contemporary spiritual life was ultimately solidified through my voluntary work for the Society for the Study of Sects and New Religious Movements, which I helped establish in 1993 and where I'm still a spokesperson. Gradually, I devoted myself entirely to religious studies. I sought to further my education primarily through three overseas residencies — the longest one in the United Kingdom and two in the United States."

Zdeněk Vojtíšek's studies in the US and the UK during roughly the same period as Yevgeny Volkov studied there may have been merely coincidental, much like their shared time under Johannes Aagaard's mentorship alongside Alexander Dvorkin.



Zdeněk Vojtíšek

Religionistika | Poradenství a psychoterapie | Teologie a mezináboženské vztahy

VYUŽÍVÁ TECHNOLOGII Google

- Úvod

Osobní profil

- Bibliografie
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- Kontakt
- Galerie

Odkazy

- Dingir.cz
- Sekty.cz
- Náboženský infoservis

Biografie

Svoje první vzdělání jsem získal v období vlády komunistické strany na pražské Filosofické fakultě UK. Studoval jsem obor učitelství češtiny a angličtiny a věnoval se především české syntaxi. Obhájil jsem diplomovou práci na téma „Přístavek v českých mluvnicích". Už během studia jsem se poohlížel také po teologii – lákaly mě především přednášky prof. Jana Hellera na Komenského evangelické fakultě. Studium na Filosofické fakultě jsem nakonec dokončil jen velmi obtížně. Kvůli mé konverzi ke křesťanství a mému zájmu o teologii mi děkan fakulty v osobním rozhovoru důrazně doporučil, abych raději odešel z fakulty dobrovolně. Podobně se vyjadřovali i někteří přednášející (a – bohužel – i zkoušející...), jiní (a to i někteří komunisté) mě naopak podporovali. Jeden z nich, vysoký komunistický funkcionář, mi nakonec umožnil získat navzdory děkanově vůli roku 1988 doktorát.

Absolvoval jsem roku 1986, takže jsem po fakultě do učitelského zaměstnání nastoupit nemohl. Po různých pokusech najít smysluplné zaměstnání jsme spolu s manželkou a prvním dítětem odešli do Chomutova, kde jsem působil jako laický duchovní (kazatel) v Církvi bratrské. Byla to dobrovolná funkce – placenou práci jsem si nakonec našel jako operátor počítače a později jako programátor. Do Prahy jsme se s rodinou vrátili po revoluci, roku 1991. Rozvíjet zájem o religionistiku při zaměstnání mi umožnila práce pro církevní nakladatelství Oliva. K zájmu o současný duchovní život mě definitivně přitáhla dobrovolná práce pro Společnost pro studium sekt a nových náboženských směrů, kterou jsem roku 1993 pomáhal založit a jejímž jsem doposud mluvčím. Postupně jsem se začal religionistice věnovat naplno. Vzdělání jsem se pokusil doplnit především při třech zahraničních pobytech – nejdéle ve Velké Británii, dvakrát ve Spojených státech. Roku 1998 jsem spolu s tehdejším studentem Janem Kotrčem založil společnost Dingir a začal vydávat stejnojmenný časopis. Od počátku jsem jeho šéfredaktorem.

První pozvání k vysokoškolským externím religionistickým přednáškám jsem dostal ze dvou fakult v Hradci Králové, pak z Pedagogické a Husitské teologické fakulty UK v Praze. Na té poslední se moje externí působení roku 2000 proměnilo na částečný úvazek. Roku 2007 jsem na této fakultě získal doktorát teologie. Obhájil jsem disertační práci Pastorační poradenství v oblasti sekt a sektářství. Od téhož roku mám částečný úvazek i na Evangelické teologické fakultě UK a zde jsem se také roku 2009 habilitoval prací s názvem Nová náboženská hnutí a kolektivní násilí. Hlavním mým působištěm ale zůstala Husitská teologická fakulta. Roku 2010 jsem dokončil základní výcvik v rogersovské psychoterapii.

Osobně laděný rozhovor s evangelickým farářem Pavlem Klineckým v pořadu Uchem jehly (Česká televize 2) lze zhlédnout zde.

Screenshot from Zdeněk Vojtíšek's website [24]

Conclusion

This article presents a variety of facts demonstrating the existence of a single network of anticult agents worldwide. However, even such an extensive list of facts and evidence is far from being exhaustive. No matter how much ostensibly pro-liberal anticult activists attempt to conceal or deny their connection to RACIRS leader Alexander Dvorkin, a deeper examination only confirms their ties. The reason for the duplicity of anticult crusaders lies in their efforts to hide their centralized network and its anti-democratic activities aimed at undermining the rule of law and the very foundations of democracy in their respective countries. Whom anticultists from various nations truly serve today is now a purely rhetorical question.

Source:

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